

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN)
and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

Released: March 3, 2003
For Month Ending: March 2, 2003
ND-CW0903

General: Calving and lambing have started across the state with the cold temperatures causing difficulties for some producers, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Cold temperatures during the month also increased the nutrition demands for cattle and sheep, forcing producers to feed additional hay. Below normal precipitation during the month of February resulted in most roads being open, making it easier for producers to market grain.

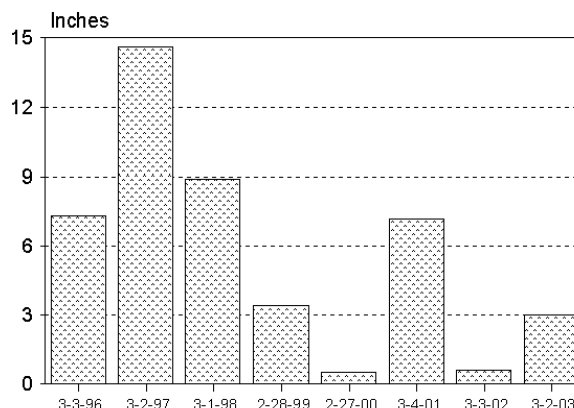
On average statewide, there were 3.0 inches of snow cover on March 2, up from 0.6 of an inch of snow cover on March 3, 2002. The north central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 5.8 inches followed by 4.8 inches in the central and northwest districts. The south central and southwest districts reported the least snow cover with 0.8 and 0.9 of an inch, respectively. County and secondary roads were rated 94 percent open, 5 difficult and 1 closed for travel. Road conditions were 78 percent dry, 10 drifted, 6 icy and 6 muddy.

Crops: The lack of snow cover and the resulting increased risk of alfalfa winter kill continues to worry producers. As of March 2, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 59 percent poor, 38 percent adequate and 3 excellent. High winds have caused soil erosion on heavily tilled fields with little snow cover.

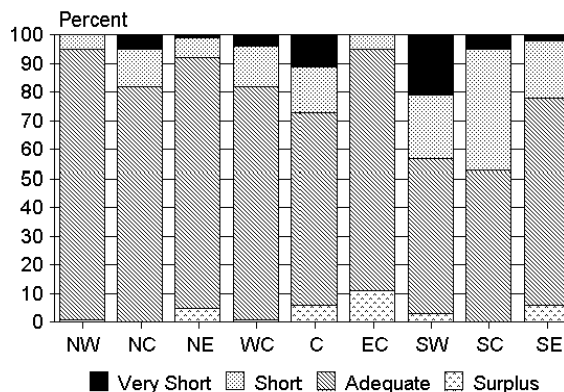
Livestock: Most livestock were reported to be in good condition across the state. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 29

fair, 60 good and 7 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 27 fair, 58 good and 11 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 20 short, 70 adequate and 3 surplus. This compares to 0 percent very short, 4 short, 84 adequate and 12 surplus on March 3, 2002. Cattle, calves and sheep are receiving 13 percent of their feed from pasture and ranges. Calving was 8 percent complete and lambing was 21 percent complete. Shearing was 45 percent complete.

Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota



Hay & Roughage Supplies by District
North Dakota, March 2, 2003



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Month Ending March 2, 2003

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WEATHER: The entire state of North Dakota experienced colder than normal conditions during the month of February. The north central, west central and central districts deviated about 11 degrees below normal, while the rest of the state ranged from 5 to 9 degrees below normal. Precipitation was below normal across the state.

OUTLOOK, March: Temperatures during the first part of the month will hover near normal or slightly below normal, while the second half of the month should bring in normal to above normal conditions. Expect precipitation to return to near normal with some areas receiving above normal precipitation.

TEMPERATURE, February 1-28, 2003

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm
(Degrees F)				
NORTHWEST	35	-27	4	-9
Columbus	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	41	-27	7	-9
Mohall	30	-27	2	-11
Minot	36	-26	5	-7
NORTH CENTRAL	30	-31	-1	-11
Baker	29	-28	1	-9
Bottineau	28	-37	-5	-13
Towner	32	-29	1	-11
NORTHEAST	30	-27	2	-9
Cando	29	-34	-2	-17
Cavalier	29	-28	0	-11
Forest River	30	-25	3	-8
Grand Forks	33	-22	5	-5
Langdon	31	-28	1	-7
St. Thomas	31	-22	4	-7
WEST CENTRAL	39	-26	6	-11
Hazen	40	-24	8	-8
Turtle Lake	35	-29	3	-12
Watford City	41	-26	8	-12
CENTRAL	34	-26	4	-10
Carrington	33	-24	5	-7
Harvey	35	-29	3	-10
Jamestown	34	-24	5	-10
Robinson	33	-27	3	-9
Streeter	34	-28	3	-12
EAST CENTRAL	32	-23	4	-8
Dazey	30	-25	2	-10
Fargo	34	-20	7	-5
Hillsboro	32	-25	4	-8
SOUTHWEST	44	-22	11	-8
Beach	46	-21	13	-6
Bowman	44	-21	12	-7
Dickinson	46	-24	11	-8
Hettinger	42	-24	9	-11
SOUTH CENTRAL	39	-22	9	-7
Bismarck	39	-21	9	-7
Linton	40	-23	9	-6
SOUTHEAST	36	-19	9	-5
Edgeley	36	-20	8	-7
McLeod	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oakes	37	-19	9	-4
Wyndmere	36	-18	9	-5

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.

